

Minutes of the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District Board

March 4, 2002 at the Sam Lena Library, 1607 S. Sixth Avenue, Tucson, Arizona.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Ruben Suarez, Corky Poster, and Alice Eckstrom. Absent: Olivia Hernandez Staff Present: John Jones, John Updike, Scott Douthitt, Wayne Casper, Marcheta Gillespie, Tim Pickrell, and Frank Cassidy.

2. Approval of Minutes

Alice Eckstrom moved, Corky Poster seconded to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussing the Rio Nuevo Aquarium Request for Proposal. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Open Meeting Law (Attached as attachment 1)

Announcement read by John Updike. Mr. Pickrell was introduced as representing Counsel to the Board. Mr. Jones introduced the staff that was present. Ms. Gillespie provided an overview of the Procurement process as it applies to the Aquarium RFP. Mr. Jones reviewed the particulars with respect to each of the two proposals. Mr. Jones indicated that the Swinerton Builder's proposal appeared to be financially viable and the Sonoran Sea proposal was not. Mr. Jones recommended that a feasibility study be commissioned to test the validity of the Swinerton proposal, which would be placed on the March 13, 2002 Board agenda.

Chair Suarez asked for clarification as to what a "scuba center" is. Mr. Jones responded. Chair Suarez asked if the proposal by Swinerton still focused on the Sea of Cortez. Mr. Jones indicated that it does. Mr. Poster asked if the Swinerton proposal's expectations of district funds remained at \$10,000,000. Mr. Jones indicated the projected uses would be negotiated. Chair Suarez noted the Casino of the Sun has a similar sized facility. Chair Suarez noted the neighborhood concerns regarding an amphitheater. Chair Suarez asked if the proposal would alter the Rio Nuevo Master Plan. Mr. Jones indicated that it would limit further development at Congress and I-10. Chair Suarez asked about pedestrian connections from the City-State garage to the proposal site. Mr. Jones indicated that a possible option is to develop an overhead connection over Congress Street. Additional discussions regarding parking issues ensued. Chair Suarez asked for clarification as to the impact of the proposed notification letter. The letter would be non-binding.

The Board posed questions as to the next steps, which were addressed by staff. Mr. Poster asked if there was an independent study as to qualifications and history. The Board expressed concerns about impacts to the TCC from a new event venue. The Board expressed concerns about the public relations issues. Mr. Douthitt reviewed the

financial issues for the Board. Mr. Jones reviewed for the Board again, the confidential nature of this discussion as well as of the proposals.

4. Motion to close session – Alice Eckstrom moved and Corky Poster seconded. Approved unanimously, 11-0.

5. Adjournment

Alice Eckstrom moved for adjournment at 6:58 p.m., seconded by Corky Poster. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.